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TITLE: Vaccines expressed in plants

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INVENTOR - INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 424/204.1; 424/223.1, 424/225.1, 424/227.1,

<u>424/725</u>

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 1. An orally acceptable immunogenic composition comprising unpurified or partially purified recombinant viral immunogen 'expressed in a plant, wherein said immunogen is expressed in the plant at a level such that upon oral administration of said composition to an animal, an immunogenic response is observed.
 - 2. The vaccine of claim 1 wherein said immunogen is capable of generating an immunogenic response when the immunogen interacts with a mucosal membrane.
 - 3. The vaccine of claim 1 wherein the immunogen is capable of binding a glycosylated molecule on the surface of a membrane of a mucosal cell.
 - 4. The vaccine of claim 1 wherein said immunogen is a chimeric protein.
 - 5. The vaccine of claim 1 wherein said immunogen is an immunogen derived from a hepatitis virus.
 - 6. An orally acceptable immunogenic composition comprising unpurified or partially purified recombinant viral immunogen expressed in a plant, wherein said immunogen is expressed in the plant at a level such that upon oral administration of said composition to an animal, an immunogenic response is observed, said viral immunogen being an immunogenic protein from a virus selected from the group consisting of transmissible gastroenteritis virus and hepatitis virus.
 - 7. A vaccine comprising a immunogen of hepatitis virus expressed in a plant, wherein said immunogen is capable of binding a glycosylated molecule on a surface of a membrane mucosal cell.
 - 8. A plant composition comprising a viral antigen which triggers

production of antibodies and which is derived from a hepatitis B virus surface antigen or transmissible gastroenteritis virus spike protein, and plant material; said antigen being a product produced by the method of expressing said immunogen in a transgenic plant, said plant material being in a form chosen from the group consisting of a whole plant, plant part, or a crude plant extract.

9. An anti-hepatitis B vaccine comprising the composition of claim 8 wherein said antigen is derived from hepatitis B virus

surface antiqen.

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10. An anti-transmissible gastroenteritis vaccine comprising the composition of claim 8 wherein said antigen is derived from transmissible gastroenteritis virus spike protein.